

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 12 are in the application. Claims 13 and 14 have been deleted.

In view of the fact that claims 13 and 14 have been deleted, it is submitted that the objection to the drawings in paragraph 3 on page 2 of the Office Action should be withdrawn.

With respect to the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, the Examiner will note that the expressions "and/or" and "or/and" have been deleted. In addition, the term "in particular" has been deleted from claim 10.

The motor/gear unit is mentioned in line 14, on page 5 of the application as originally filed. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 10 are also respectfully requested.

As a result of the foregoing Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to set forth the present invention more clearly and to distinguish over the prior art.

Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to make it clear that the device according to the present invention has a rotating grinding head (7) which acts as the only material removing tool which assumes a fixed position relative to a motor/gear unit which is provided with a housing (1) having two handles (2,4).

Applicant respectfully submits that a motor/gear unit provided with a housing having two handles is characteristic for a certain type of well-known and widely distributed manual grinding machines which significantly differs from all three cited references.

The device is significantly larger and many times heavier than the devices according to the references which is the reason why two handles are provided and which means that it is used for much larger workpieces and serves a completely different purpose.

The reference to Hall is directed to special devices for sharpening certain objects.

The device according to Hall is designed for sharpening long veneer and clipper knives.

The reference to Kolling shows a device for sharpening the cutting knives of mowing machines.

The reference to Morith discloses a device for sharpening ice skate edges.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 as amended is distinguished over Hall by the arrangement of the handles on the housing of a motor/gear unit and by the recitation that the grinding head is the alone material removal tool.

In the reference to Hall, the handles (14) are mounted on a "carriage member (12)". The grinding head (24) is only an optional feature. The actual grinding tools (16, 20) are provided in all cases and are the honing stones.

The feature mentioned first also distinguishes the present application over the references to Kolling and the reference to Morith. The tool of Kolling is used in a drilling machine, as stated in column 2, line 6, which conventionally has only one handle.

The same is true for Morith. In this reference, a handle (54) is mounted in addition to the handle of the drilling

machine on the sharpener (10). This means that the handles cannot be both mounted on the housing of a motor/gear unit.

The device according to the reference to Hall absolutely requires a guiding means. The honing stones (16, 20) are each mounted in a cage so as to be resiliently yielding relative to each other. Without a guiding means, the exertion of force by the honing stones on the work piece would be uncontrolled. In other words, more force would be exerted on the one side or on the other side of the workpiece than on the opposite side of the workpiece.

The manual grinding machine according to the present invention does actually not require a guide means. The device has been manufactured thousands of times without using guide means.

The guide means of Hall, which are absolutely required, are connected intellectually fixedly with the subject matter of the application without which the device would not operate. It was also not obvious that the device should be separated from the arrangement and were to be used in a completely different object.

The device according to Kolling for sharpening the rotary knives of a rotary mower is a specific subject matter and operates in a special manner, so that it cannot supply the concept or disclose or suggest the use of a large manual grinding machine of the type of the present application with a guide means. Primarily, the guide plate (14) of the guide device provided according to the present invention is not comparable because the guide plate (14) rotates together with the grinding wheel (24) which is a configuration which is not provided according to the present invention. Accordingly, there is no transfer to the present invention from the references.

In the reference to Morith, the same is true as was stated with respect to Hall. The guide means is absolutely necessary and required. This is because without the guide means it would be impossible to hold the grinding disc in the intended position above the edge. The circumferential direction of the grinding wheel is transversely relative to the edge of the skate. Without a securing means by a guide, the grinding disc always jumps off towards the side. Accordingly, this specific reference can also not provide any suggestion for providing a guide means for the manual grinding machine.

Another very important fact is the following:

It is surprising that, in spite of the large number of manual grinding machines in existence, no document has been found which would propose a guide device for such a manual grinding machine. This already clearly demonstrates that the proposed device according to the present invention cannot have been obvious.

The reason for this would appear to be the fact that the use of the conventional manual grinding machine would operate in a manner which is completely changed by a guide means. The characteristic feature of the manual grinding machines has always been in the past the mobility of the device with respect to all three degrees of freedom. The manual grinding machine must be moved by means of a feeding device in the same manner as an automatic machine. This is a significant change and it is also for this reason that the device according to the present invention is not obvious.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of the claims in view of the references relied on by the Examiner should be withdrawn.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application would now appear to be in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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**MAILING CERTIFICATE**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 31, 2008.

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July 31, 2008

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